

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY TEXT SUPPLIED BY WHITE HOUSE
APPROVED BY AF:WBEDMONDSON
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081723

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, SA, RH, US

SUBJECT: LETTER TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA FROM PRESIDENT CARTER

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FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER DATED MARCH 27 FROM PRESIDENT
CARTER TO PRESIDENT KAUNDA. PLEASE DELIVER ASAP. SIGNED
ORIGINAL FOLLOWS BY POUCH.

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: THANK YOU FOR YOUR
RECENT LETTERS DETAILING ZAMBIA'S POSITION ON RHODESIA.
AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAS ALSO INFORMED ME OF HIS FRANK CON-
VERSATION WITH YOU. I APPRECIATE YOUR OPENNESS AND
SINCERITY IN DISCUSSING THIS DIFFICULT ISSUE, AND YOUR
SUPPORT FOR THE PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING OF THE PRINCIPAL
PARTIES TO THE RHODESIAN CONFLICT.

THE SMITH REGIME'S VIOLATION OF ZAMBIAN TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY HAS BEEN UNANIMOUSLY CONDEMNED IN THE SECURITY
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COUNCIL. IN ADDITION, WE AND THE BRITISH HAVE MADE IT
CLEAR TO THE RHODESIANS THAT SUCH ACTIONS INTENSIFY THE
TREND TOWARDS VIOLENCE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. THE TOLL IN
HUMAN LIVES AND SUFFERING IS MEASURELESS AND TRAGIC.
PLEASE ACCEPT MY PERSONAL CONDOLENCES AND THOSE OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR THE DEATHS OF ZAMBIAN CITIZENS WHO
DIED IN THIS ATTACK ON YOUR NATION.

I SHARE YOUR CONCERN OVER THE SALISBURY "INTERNAL SETTLEMENT" AND I HAVE SAID PUBLICLY THAT IT IS INADEQUATE TO THE TASK OF ACHIEVING A NEGOTIATED AND PEACEFUL RESOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN CRISIS. IN HIS STATEMENT IN THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ON MARCH 14TH, AMBASSADOR YOUNG DWELT AT LENGTH ON THE SERIOUS DEFICIENCIES OF THESE INTERNAL ARRANGEMENTS. HE POINTED OUT THAT THEY DO NOT PROVIDE FOR A GENUINE TRANSFER OF POWER TO THE AFRICAN MAJORITY THROUGH A FAIRLY CONDUCTED AND IRREVERSIBLE TRANSITIONAL PROCESS.

AMBASSADOR YOUNG ALSO RESTATED THE DETERMINATION OF THE UNITED STATES TO PURSUE A RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES ENUNCIATED IN THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS; I REAFFIRM THAT COMMITMENT TO YOU NOW. WE HAVE NOT WAVERED IN OUR DEDICATION, NOR WILL WE ABANDON OUR PRINCIPLES. THE LANGUAGE IN THE FRONT LINE-PATRIOTIC FRONT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT DAR ES SALAAM ON MARCH 26 CONTAINS UNWARRANTED DISTORTIONS OF OUR POSITION. CONFRONTATIONAL RHETORIC DOES NOTHING TO FURTHER OUR COMMON INTERESTS AND, INDEED, MAKES IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR ME TO DEVELOP THE SUPPORT NECESSARY TO PURSUE THEM.

THE TASK AHEAD OF US IS EXTRAORDINARILY DIFFICULT. OUR PRESSING GOAL IS TO OBTAIN THE AGREEMENT OF ALL THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NATIONALIST LEADERS. WHILE WE HAVE SET NO PRECONDITIONS FOR THE MEETING WE HAVE SUGGESTED, SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS. THE PARTICIPATION OF THE SALISBURY CONFEREES WOULD IN NO WAY LEGITIMIZE THE ARRANGEMENTS THEY HAVE ENTERED INTO IN SALISBURY.

WE MUST FIND A FORMULA THAT WILL ENCOURAGE BISHOP MUZOREWA AND REVEREND SITHOLE TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE WAY TO ACHIEVE A GENUINELY ENDURING SETTLEMENT IS NOT THROUGH THE INADEQUATE ARRANGEMENTS THEY HAVE NOW. SIMPLE CONDEMNATION OF THESE TWO MEN, HOWEVER, WILL FORCE THEM FURTHER INTO ISOLATION. THEY MUST BE MADE TO SEE THAT THERE IS AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE ARRANGEMENT THEY ARE CAUGHT UP IN WITH SMITH.

WHILE MR. NKOMO AND MR. MUGABE HAVE PUBLICLY STATED THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS AS A BASIS OF NEGOTIATION, THEY CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN POSITIONS THAT ARE INCONSISTENT WITH THE IMPARTIALITY AND BUILT-IN CHECKS AND BALANCES OF THE PROPOSALS THEMSELVES. WE CANNOT ACCEPT ANY ONE GROUP'S PREDOMINANT POSITION DURING

THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD AND BEYOND. AT THE HEART OF

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS IS THE NEED FOR AN IMPARTIAL, TRANSITIONAL MECHANISM, WHICH WILL NOT FAVOR ONE GROUP OVER ANOTHER. THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT DOES NOT PROVIDE FOR THIS, NOR REGRETTABLY, DOES THE CURRENT POSITION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT.

I HOPE THAT YOU AND YOUR FRONT LINE COLLEAGUES WILL ENCOURAGE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TYPE OF MEETING WE HAVE SUGGESTED. WE ARE PREPARED TO EXAMINE INTERIM STEPS THAT MIGHT FACILITATE THEIR PARTICIPATION.

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I DEEPLY REGRET THAT I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT YOUR KIND OFFER TO TRAVEL TO ZAMBIA WHILE I AM VISITING AFRICA, BUT I KNOW YOU WILL UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT IT IS FOR ME TO GET BACK FOR THE RESUMED SESSION OF CONGRESS. I AWAIT WITH GREAT ANTICIPATION THE OPPORTUNITY THAT I WILL HAVE FOR A FULL DISCUSSION OF THESE ISSUES WITH YOU DURING YOUR VISIT HERE IN MID-MAY. SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. END TEXT.

COOPER

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